

UNITED STATES WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

SUITE 800 • 2120 L STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

JUN 24 1974 STATINTL

Mr. Oswald H. Ganley
Executive Secretary
Bureau of International Scientific
and Technological Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Ganley:

Enclosed for your information, review, and processing is a copy of the Protocol and four appendices, both in English and Russian, which was signed on May 23, 1974, as a result of a meeting in the Soviet Union of the Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. Working Group on Planning, Utilization, and Management of Water Resources. This activity is one of the action programs approved in March 1973 by the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Will you please see that this information is made available for consideration of the Joint Commission during its meeting which is scheduled to be held in the United States in October 1974. If you have any additional questions in regards to the Protocol, appendices, or the trip, please feel free in contacting me or any member of the U.S. team.

Protocol and appendices - In addition to the signed Protocol the document includes four appendices which are:

Appendix 1 -- listing of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. officials who participated in the meeting;

Appendix 2 -- the program of U.S.-U.S.S.R. Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Water Resources - Problems of Water Resources Planning and Management Methodology;

Appendix 3 -- priority cooperative projects to be undertaken and basically completed by the end of calendar 1975;

Appendix 4 -- proposed itinerary for visit of U.S.S.R. Working Group on Planning, Utilization and Management of Water Resources to the United States in September of 1974.

The Protocol and appendices as agreed upon represent a very ambitious program of cooperation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in the field of water planning, utilization and management. Subsequent review of the job work items will probably result in the elimination or delay in completion of certain items as a matter of practicality. It is anticipated that a review of the program will be undertaken during the return visit of the Soviet team to the United States in September or October of this year.

The scope of the cooperative program relates to the numerous opportunities that representatives of both Nations envision in this endeavor. The meeting in Moscow in May was the first concrete effort to prune down the number of cooperative activities. A review of the work items included on the priority list, Appendix #3, as compared to the program of cooperation, Appendix #2, indicates the effort made to reduce the number of activities to a manageable level.

As a followup to the signing of this Protocol, it is the plan of the U.S. team to outline a strategy for implementation of as many of the work items as possible within the time frame as outlined. A realistic effort will be made to undertake the work items as scheduled and any deviation from that schedule will be fully discussed with the Soviet team during the fall meeting of our two groups.

Also enclosed is the itinerary for the May 1974 mission to the Soviet Union on Planning, Utilization and Management of Water Resources. My observations of the itinerary are as follow:

1. Our Soviet hosts proved to be most hospitable and were willing to show and explain any point in the program of interest to our team.
2. Team members were impressed with the magnitude of the Soviet water resources development programs. It is obvious that the Soviet Union is placing high priority on water development, primarily irrigation for the production of additional crops. We observed sizable construction programs in the four project areas which we visited of Kahovka, North-Crimea, Hungry-Steppe and Karshi Steppe. These projects generally include some very good irrigable soils. In the Hungry-Steppe and the Karshi Steppe area the Soviets are placing high priority on production of cotton.
3. The Soviet team including the leader, Mr. Volynov, places a very high priority on cooperation in the area of transbasin diversion of major streams. This reflects the assignment of responsibility to the Ministry on Land, Reclamation

and Water Management for developing a scheme for diverting flows from rivers flowing north into the Arctic Ocean to the more temperate regions in the southern part of the country. The Soviets are very interested in getting briefed on any major diversion schemes which have been envisioned in the United States in recent years. Even though it was indicated to them that none of these schemes are under active consideration at this time, they requested that a briefing of the concepts involved be made during their September or October visit to the United States. The schemes that they are interested in include (1) diversion of Mississippi water to the high plains of Texas and New Mexico; and (2) the program for diverting Missouri River water up the Elkhorn River to the Great Plains Region. We on the U.S. team place higher priority on some specific activities such as: programs for salinity control; improvement in salinity levels of certain land-locked lakes; environmental impacts of channelization; and design of large capacity pumping plants.

4. During the visit with Deputy Minister Borodavchenko we inquired about the problem associated with the delay in cooperation in the area of cold weather construction. We were notified by Deputy Minister Borodavchenko that correspondence had just been sent from the Soviet Union to the United States which should lead to renewed activity on this particular venture.

5. The Soviets continue to pressure for a method of financing the cooperation whereby the receiving Nation pays associated expenses. I indicated concurrence with the concepts as outlined by the Joint Commission, however, I stated that the Water Resources Council and many of the Federal water agencies are presently without authority to finance this type of program. Mr. Volynov and others were very persistent on this point and I can anticipate that they will continue to pursue this matter. I indicated that we would try to seek the necessary authorization in line with the Joint Commission concept on financing.

6. Except for a minor incident involving what the Soviets thought was photo taking at an airport, the entire trip was well organized and thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the American team. The photography incident was reported to officials of the American Embassy. I am convinced that no photographs were taken at the airport; however, in order to overcome any problem the film in the camera was stripped and was given to the security police at the airport.

7. The members of the Soviet team were pleased to be invited to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow for an informal reception held in the apartment of Dr. Jack Tech.

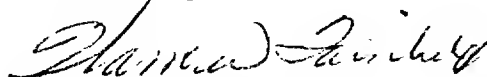
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8. Since most of the work in developing the Protocol was scheduled during the last week, the administrative problems of completing the Protocol were almost impossible, requiring a concerted day and night activity on the part of the Soviets to complete the Protocol in a form for signature.

In summary I consider the May trip to Moscow as quite successful. Good rapport was developed between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. team which should facilitate subsequent cooperative activities. Communication will continue to be a problem in carrying out the details of the program. The Soviet counterparts are anxious to move forward in this program and at the same time accommodate the American point of view. The successful implementation of the programs of work will have to be associated with a commitment of resources on the part of both Nations. The ultimate level of success of this program is not apparent at this time; however, the immediate success of friendly relationships among the officials of both Nations in this field is readily apparent. It is obvious that the Soviets place a high priority on the water programs within their country and also on the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Program.

Mr. Volynov, Project Coordinator for the U.S.S.R. Working Group on Planning, Utilization, and Management of Water Resources, visited my office on June 7. At that time we were able to make some additional decisions relative to the fall trip of the U.S.S.R. team to the United States. It would now appear that the date of the trip will be the 2-week period just prior to the Joint Commission meeting scheduled for October. This schedule would make it possible for Mr. Volynov to attend the Joint Commission meeting. In addition it was agreed that during this meeting the two teams would place emphasis on the subject of salinity control programs and diversions of major river flows. The U.S.S.R. and U.S. teams are to be prepared to each make a formal presentation on these two items at that time.

Sincerely,



Warren D. Fairchild
Director

Enclosures